

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S.384**

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TO:	The Honorable Glenn McConnell, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Beth Campbell		
DATE:	March 27, 2007	SBD:	2007166

AUTHOR:	Senator Land	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	42-15-60
SUBJECT:	Workers' Compensation - Choosing Physician		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:
See Below

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:
See Below

BILL SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 384 would allow the employee to select his attending physician when the commission orders further treatment due to controversy between employer and employee. This Bill would allow any disabled employee to receive treatment during the life of the injured employee and would delete the provision which provides for payment to an injured employee without regard to any limitation.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

Workers' Compensation Commission

The Commission reports this Bill will have no impact on the General Fund of the State or on Federal and/or Other Funds.

State Accident Fund

The Fund estimates this Bill will increase workers' compensation claims costs that will translate into an increase in premiums (paid by governmental entities) due to an expansion of benefits. Premiums are paid by state agencies from State General Funds as well as Federal and Other Funds. The specific costs are difficult to estimate due to a number of other factors that impact the ultimate cost of workers' compensation claims.

Second Injury Fund

The Fund reports this Bill may have a minimal cost to the Uninsured Employers' Fund due to an increase in workers' compensation claims costs.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

Local government would be impacted to the same extent as State agencies.

Approved by:



Harry Bell
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget